

State Troops Needed Now More Than At Any Time Since Entering Service

State Guard troops are needed now more than at any time since they were mustered into service, according to Lt. Col. A. Milton Fish, commanding officer of Group 3, Southern California area, California State Guard.

Calling attention to the communication of Brig. Gen. Victor R. Hansen, the adjutant general, to officers and men of the State Guard, Colonel Fish declared that the problem of meeting reconversion problems places a heavier load on local law enforcement officers than they have experienced even during the darker days of the war.

Colonel Fish, addressing the Torrance Lions club Tuesday noon in the Civic Auditorium in a program presided over by Capt. Frank S. Selover, group public relations officer, city editor of the Torrance Herald, and secretary of the club, paid high tribute to Torrance and its State Guard unit, Co. H, commanded by Capt. R. L. Lewellen who also is third group plans and training officer. He said that the company always has been considered outstanding among State Guard units.

He quoted the communication of General Hansen, as of August 17, as follows:

"The report is prevalent in certain quarters that with the termination of the present war there is no longer need for the State Guard. That report may be based on the misconception that our state troops are now just are for war-time purposes only.

"It may be well, at this time, for each of us to reestimate the situation here on the home front. The end of the war brings us face to face with the inescapable fact that the State Guard is of far greater and more vital importance to the safety and well-being of our home communities now than at any time since it was mustered into service.

"The mission of the State Guard is not completed and will not be until the National Guard in this state can be reorganized. For us to leave our post at this time is unthinkable. To do so would be to leave our local law enforcement agencies without the support of state troops in the event of emergency. None of us should forget that such an emergency may threaten our own families, our own homes and our own communities.

"I therefore call upon you, not only to stand fast while our people are facing the threat of an emergency pending the reorganization of the National Guard, but I urge that you ask your friends and neighbors to join with us. Local law enforcement agencies in small communities and metropolitan centers alike may call for our reinforcing strength at any time. Let

us be ready as we always have been in the past, to answer that call promptly and in the best military tradition."

Following the talk, President H. B. Lewis declared that he felt that State Guard troops had performed and still perform tasks far more important to the security of the nation and state than many units of the regular forces, and he proposed a resolution that veterans' benefits be extended to the state troopers. The motion was made and carried unanimously.

Funeral For R. C. Wheeler To Be Today

Funeral services for the late Raymond C. Wheeler, director and general manager of manufacturing for the General Petroleum Corporation, will be held Thursday, 2 p.m., in Wee Kirk of the Heather, Forest Lawn Memorial Park. He died Sunday night at his home, 922 Cumberland rd., Glendale.

Wheeler is survived by his wife, Mrs. Marion Thorne Wheeler, two sons and a daughter, Lt. Robert T. Wheeler, USNR, Raymond C., junior, a midshipman at Notre Dame University, and Virginia Irene Wheeler.

Wheeler had served with General Petroleum since 1918, and held numerous important executive posts.

His first work with the company was at General's refining plant in Vernon, where during World War I he was research chemist in charge of laboratory work in connection with the development of the source of Tetul from petroleum products in behalf of the U. S. Army Ordnance Department.

At the close of World War I, Wheeler served the company successively as assistant general manager, and then manager of the gas department, Vernon. In 1936 he was elected to the directorate of the corporation, and in 1942 became vice president and manager of manufacturing operations.

In the latter position Wheeler directed construction of General's new TCC (Thermofor Catalytic Cracking) units in Torrance, completed last spring, which produced super-100-octane gasoline for use in war planes.

Right up to the time of his death he was devoting his energies to the reconversion program, making ready to channel a new gasoline into retail outlets for civilian use.

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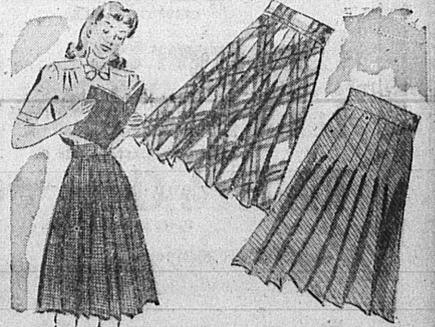
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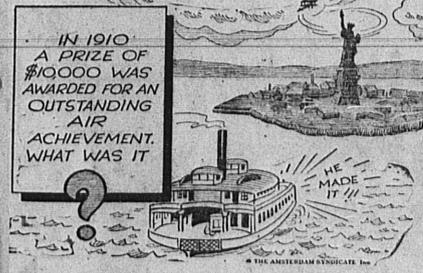


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